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Addendum

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Programme questions: proposed medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005 (item 3 (b))

Programme 3
Peacekeeping operations

1. At its 7th meeting, on 12 June 2000, the Committee considered the proposed medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005. It had before it proposals in respect of programme 3 (Peacekeeping operations).

2. The Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations introduced programme 3 and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the programme.

Discussion

3. Support was expressed for the activities of peacekeeping operations. Appreciation was expressed regarding the quality of the narrative of the programme, which, it was considered, provided a good blueprint for the activities of peacekeeping operations. It was observed that the new format was an improvement over the medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001 since it was clear and concise and effectively presented the major components of the programme for peacekeeping operations. The activities of the programme represented one of the highest priorities of the Organization.

4. It was stressed that the recent surge in peacekeeping operations demanded a well-structured response from the Department, which should ensure the capacity to address a wide variety of conflict situations. Respect for the principles of sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of States and non-

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intervention in matters that were essentially within the jurisdiction of any State was crucial to common efforts to promote international peace and security.

5. It was pointed out that in order for peacekeeping operations to be truly effective, there should be sufficient personnel and other resources to undertake peacekeeping activities. In that context, the Committee reaffirmed the paramount importance of securing staff with the highest standards of efficiency, competence and integrity, due regard being paid to as wide a geographical basis as possible. The view was also expressed that Article 19 of the Charter of the United Nations should also apply to the Security Council.

6. The emphasis given to training, the security and safety of peacekeepers in the field and gender mainstreaming was welcomed. In connection with training, the view was expressed that greater emphasis should be given to providing training for developing countries. It was further noted that recourse to training, in particular specialized training, was an important element of the strategy for the plan period. Emphasis was placed on the management of peacekeeping operations in the field and on the need for a continuous flow of information to and from Member States in all phases of peacekeeping operations.

7. It was expressed that the capacity of the Organization for crisis management operating on short notice should be given highest priority. Attention was drawn to the increased role of civilian police components of peacekeeping operations and to the need to revise the current procedures regarding the category of reserve personnel to be used actively for peacekeeping operations. It was pointed out that care should be taken to ensure that police and military tasks are clearly differentiated. On military and/or civilian police required for the resolution of conflicts, it was emphasized that there was a need to focus on high-quality, readily deployable personnel and integrated planning.

8. The view was expressed that the Secretariat, at all times, should take into account the recommendations of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations. It was pointed out that regional arrangements should be utilized only under the authority of the Security Council and with full cooperation of the Governments concerned.

Conclusions and recommendations

9. The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly the approval of programme 3 (Peacekeeping operations) of the proposed medium-term plan subject to the following modifications:

(a) Paragraph 3.1:

Replace the second sentence by the following: "The legislative authority for the programme derives from the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations. The mandates of the programme are provided in resolutions of the Security Council, as well as General Assembly resolutions on the comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects; on the administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of United Nations peacekeeping operations; and on assistance in mine clearance. In respect of peacekeeping operations, legislative authority derives from decisions and resolutions of the Security Council related to particular operations";

(b) Paragraph 3.2:

(i) In the first sentence, after the words "is designed around", add the words "the close coordination of";

(ii) In the second sentence, after the words "regional agencies or arrangements", add the words "where appropriate and when the mandate and scope of regional arrangements and agencies allow them to do so";

(iii) In the fifth sentence, replace the words "As mandated by the Security Council, additional activities will include" by the words "The Security Council, in some particular peacekeeping missions, has authorized the inclusion of such activities as";

(iv) In the sixth sentence, after the words "executive law enforcement", add the words "to include criminal justice functions, as appropriate";

(v) At the beginning of the last sentence, before the words "It will", insert the words "In accordance with Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations";

(vi) After the last sentence, add the following: "The need to differentiate between peacekeeping operations and humanitarian assistance is emphasized. However, if protection of humanitarian assistance is a mandated task of a United Nations peacekeeping operation, both should be coordinated to ensure that they are not working at cross purposes and that the impartiality of humanitarian assistance is ensured";

(c) Paragraph 3.4:

(i) After the second sentence, add the following new sentence: "Given the multidimensional nature of peacekeeping operations and the relevant civilian component, more emphasis will be given, where appropriate, to the integrated approach of peacekeeping operations and to a stronger coordination among different entities of the Secretariat during the plan period";

(ii) After the last sentence, add the following new sentence: "The Department of Peacekeeping Operations will implement the recommendations of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations as endorsed by the General Assembly";

(d) Paragraph 3.5:

After the words "to ensure the effective" insert the words "and rapid";

(e) Paragraph 3.6:

At the end of the second sentence, after the words "will be taken", add the words "with emphasis placed on addressing increased workload demand during the start-up phase of peacekeeping operations";

(f) Paragraph 3.9:

Replace the words "good offices, preventive diplomacy, peacemaking and humanitarian missions" with the words "as well as other activities in the field authorized by the United Nations";

(g) Replace paragraph 3.11 with the following:

"The subprogramme will ensure an effective, proactive and coordinated United Nations response to mine infestation throughout the Organization's humanitarian, social and economic assistance activities. It will serve as the focal point within the United Nations system for mine-related activities, namely, facilitation of a coherent and constructive dialogue between the United Nations and relevant actors on mine clearance, awareness and assistance; the collection, analysis and dissemination, through transparent and recognized sources, of mine-related information, including information on safety standards; advocacy to promote awareness of the serious threat that the indiscriminate use of landmines constitute to the safety, health and lives of local population; and the development and implementation of a comprehensive resource mobilization strategy. It will, in coordination with other organizations in the United Nations system, develop policies on the establishment of mine-clearance capacities in countries requesting a reduction in landmine contamination where mines constitute a serious threat to the safety, health and lives of the population. Assessment missions and surveys will be undertaken to establish priorities and oversight. Where appropriate, the subprogramme will develop mine action programmes in support of peacekeeping missions and, as required, initiate mine action plans in humanitarian emergencies;

(h) Paragraph 3.12:

Before the words "operational readiness", add the word "improved";

(i) Paragraph 3.16:

Replace the paragraph by the following: "To enhance the Organization's capacity to respond to conflicts in an efficient and prompt manner, the United Nations standby arrangements will be broadened to ensure the ready availability of data concerning the immediate capacity of Member States to deploy to new operations";